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ABSTRACT

Statistical data are presented on the attitudes, opinions, and participation patterns of 291 Alabama public health workers involved during the 1967-68 in statewide professional continuing education programs. Reactions to program components (instructional television, study manuals, group discussion sessions) and specific topics are summarized. Item responses distributed on a basis of 60% and over, or 39% and under, have been arbitrarily designated as marking significant trends. (See AC 008 85% for the complete study on reactions by the program participants.) (LY)



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CONTINUING EDUCATION IN ALABAMA AFTER ONE YEAR

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Alabama Department of Public Health Hontgomery, Alabama November, 1968

INTRODUCTION

After much planning time and effort was expended, the Southern Branch, American Public Health Association, Continuing Education Project was implemented in Alabama in September, 1967. After completing the first year of operation, it was felt that feedback was essential from the participants in order to provide a sound basis for future planning and to assess some of the attitudes of the participants toward the Continuing Education Program.

A questionnaire was developed by the Executive Secretary of Southern Branch, American Public Health Association, for the purpose of gathering data. Using an alphabetical list of the more than 1600 public health workers in Alabama, a twenty percent random sample was drawn by selecting every fifth name. A total of 383 persons were mailed questionnaires, with 291 responding. This resulted in a return rate of seventy-six percent.

Enclosed is the tabulated results of the 291 persons who filled out the questionnaire.

We hope this information is of interest to you.



PRESENTATION OF DATA

ITEM		CATEGORY	NUMBER	PER CENT
1.	In how many programs did you	21-30	139	68.5
	participate?	11-20	38	18.7
	-	10 or less	26	12.8
		TOTAL	203	100.0
2.		Usually	193	93.2
	clearly?	<u>Seldom</u>	14	6.8
		TOTAL	207	100.0
3.	Was the television picture clear	Usually	183	88.4
	and observable?	Seldom_	24	11.6
		TOTAL	207	100.0
4.	Were the study manuals received	Usually	182	87.1
	on time for advanced reading?	Seldom	27	12.9
	•	TOTAL	209	100.0
5.	Did you read the study manuals	lisually	161	77.0
	prior to the television programs?	Seldom	48	23.0
		TOTAL	209	100.0
6.	Do you feel the study manuals	Usually	139	67.1
	correlated well with the tele-	<u>Seldom</u>	68	32,9
	vision programs?	TOTAL	207	100.0
7.	Did the study manuals provide	Usually	139	66.5
	you with new and useful	<u>Seldom</u>	70	33,5
	information?	TOTAL	209	100.0
8.	Did you find the study manuals	Usually	77	36.8
-	related to your areas of work	Seldom	132	63,2
	and responsibilities?	TOTAL	209	100.0
9.	Did you find the study manuals	Usually	189	90.9
	easy to read and understand?	Seldom	19	9,1
		TOTAL	208	100.0
10.	Did you look forward to re-	tisually	121	59.0
	ceiving the study manuals?	<u>Seldom</u>	84	41.0
		TOTAL	205	100.0
11.	Did you find the color, print-	Usually	173	83.6
	ing, paper and layout of the	Seldom	34	16.4
	study manuals attractive?	TOTAL	207	100.0
12.	Was an introduction made by the	Usually	85	41,3
-	discussion leader prior to the	Seldom	121	58.7
	television programs?	TOTAL	206	100.0



ITEM		CATEGORY	NUMBER	PER CENT
13. If you had introduct to the television pr did you find them he	ograms,	Usually <u>Seldom</u> TOTAL	83 80 163	60.9 49.1 100.0
14. Were all introduction the same person?	ons made by	Usually Saldom TOTAL	67 97 164	40.9 59.1 100.0
15. Did the persons makintroduction appear		Usually <u>Seldom</u> TOTAL	107 60 167	64.1 35.9 100.0
16. Preference for time the television progr	_	Morning Afternoon TOTAL	122 83 205	59.5 40.5 100.0
17. Do you feel the tele grams provided you w useful information?		Usually Seldom TOTAL	144 64 208	69.2 30.8 100.0
18. Do you feel the tele grams related to you responsibility?		Usually Seldom TOTAL	94 112 206	45.6 54.4 100.0
19. Did you find the tell programs easy to und		Usually Seldom	174 34	83.6 16.4
20. Did you look forward to viewing the telev		TOTAL Usually Seldom	208 107 100	51.7 48.3
grams? 21. Do you feel that on the thirty minute te		TOTAL Too long Too short	207 14 3	100.0 6.7 1.4
programs were: 22. Do you feel the tele	ulalaa aua-	About right TOTAL 1/week	191 208 90	91.9 100.0 43.5
22. Do you feel the tele grams scheduled for 1968, through May, I be shown:	September,	2/month 1/month TOTAL	66 51 207	31.9 24.6 100.0
23. Do you feel the tele speakers presented to information and mate	:heir	Usually Seldom TOTAL	145 61 206	70.4 29.6 100.0
adequately? 24. Do you feel the usual in the television practical adequate?		Usually Saldom TOTAL	132 72 204	64.7 35.3 100.0
and dance.		- 7 B 1 1 M		



25. Do you feel the topics selected were appropriate? Usually 158 76.3	ITE	4	CATEGORY	NUMBER	PER CENT
Seldom 49 23.7	25.	Do you feel the topics	lisual ly	158	76.3
TOTAL 207 100.0					
Seldom 30 14.6 TOTAL 206 100.0					
TOTAL 206 100.0	26.	Do you feel the television			85.4
27. Did you have discussion sessions following each television program? Seldom 18 8.7		speakers were well prepared?			
Seldom 18 6.7			TOTAL	206	100.0
Vision program? TOTAL 207 100.0	27.				
28. Did you participate actively in the discussion periods? Seldom 85 41.3					
in the discussion periods? Seldom 85 41.3 TOTAL 206 100.0		vision program?	TOTAL 207	207	100.0
TOTAL 206 100.0	28.				
29. Do you feel the discussion periods were informative and educational? 30. Were the discussion periods held for thirty minutes? 31. Do you feel the discussion periods were related to your work and responsibility? 32. Were the discussion periods led by different individuals? 33. Were the discussion periods well attended? 34. Do you feel the seating arrangements during the discussion periods? 35. Did most staff membars speak and participate actively in the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion periods? 37. TOTAL 207 100.0 38. Usually 181 87.4 Seldom 26 12.6 TOTAL 207 100.0 39. Usually 137 67.5 Seldom 66 32.5 TOTAL 203 100.0 30. Usually 137 67.5 Seldom 72 34.8 Seldom 73 34.8 Seldom 72 34.8 Seldom 73 34.8 Seldom 74 34.8 Seldom 75 34.8 Seldom 75 34.8 Seldom 76 32.5		in the discussion periods?			
periods were informative and educational? 30. Were the discussion periods held for thirty minutes? 31. Do you feel the discussion periods were related to your work and responsibility? 32. Were the discussion periods led by different individuals? 33. Were the discussion periods led by different individuals? 34. Do you feel the seating arrangements during the discussion periods helped people to participate in the discussion periods? 35. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in the discussion period? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 37. TOTAL 207 100.0 37. TOTAL 207 100.0 38. Usually 181 87.4 Seldom 26 12.6 TOTAL 207 100.0 39. Usually 137 67.5 Seldom 66 32.5 TOTAL 203 100.0 30. Usually 137 67.5 Seldom 72 34.8 TOTAL 207 100.0			TOTAL	206	100.0
### additional? Total 207 100.0	29.	Do you feel the discussion	Usually	129	62.3
30. Were the discussion periods held for thirty minutes? Seldom 45 21.7 TOTAL 207 100.0			Seldom	78	37.7
for thirty minutes? Seldom 45 21.7 TOTAL 207 100.0 31. Do you feel the discussion periods were related to your work and responsibility? TOTAL 206 100.0 32. Were the discussion periods led by different individuals? Seldom 59 28.5 TOTAL 207 100.0 33. Were the discussion periods well attended? Seldom 59 28.5 TOTAL 207 100.0 34. Do you feel the seating serrangements during the discussion periods helped people to participate in the discussion? 35. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in the discussion periods? Seldom 72 34.8 TOTAL 207 100.0 Seldom 72 34.8 TOTAL 207 100.0		educational?	TOTAL	207	100.0
TOTAL 207 100.0 31. Do you feel the discussion periods were related to your work and responsibility? 32. Were the discussion periods led by different individuals? 33. Were the discussion periods well attended? 34. Do you feel the seating arrangements during the discussion periods helped people to participate in the discussion? 35. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 37. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in seldom 72 34.8 and participate actively in Seldom 108 54.8	30.				78.3
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32. Were the discussion periods led by different individuals? 148 71.5 Seldom 59 28.5 TOTAL 207 100.0 33. Were the discussion periods well attended? 150 Seldom 26 12.6 TOTAL 207 100.0 34. Do you feel the seating arrangements during the discussion periods helped people to participate in the discussion? 35. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 37. Did most staff members dead are seldom 72 34.8 the discussion periods? 38. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 39. Usually 135 65.2 Seldom 72 34.8 the discussion periods? 39. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 30. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 31. Usually 135 65.2 Seldom 72 34.8 the discussion period? 32. Usually 135 65.2 Seldom 72 34.8 the discussion period? 33. Usually 135 65.2 Seldom 72 34.8 the discussion period? 34. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 35. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 36. Did a secorder take notes during the discussion period? 37. Did not take notes during the discussion period? 38. Did not take notes during the discussion period?		periods were related to your	Seldom	90	43.7
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33. Were the discussion periods well attended? Seldom 26 12.6 TOTAL 207 100.0 34. Do you feel the seating arrangements during the discussion periods helped people to participate in the discussion? 35. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 37. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 38. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? Seldom 72 34.8 TOTAL 207 100.0			Seldom	59	28.5
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TOTAL 207 100.0 34. Do you feel the seating arrangements during the dis- cussion periods helped people to participate in the dis- cussion? 35. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? TOTAL 207 100.0 Usually 135 65.2 Seldom 72 34.8 TOTAL 207 100.0	33.	Were the discussion periods	Usually	181	87.4
34. Do you feel the seating arrangements during the dis- cussion periods helped people to participate in the dis- cussion? 35. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 37. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 38. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? 39. Usually as 45.2 and 54.8		well attended?			12.6
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to participate in the discussion? 35. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in the discussion periods? 36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period? Usually 89 45.2 ing the discussion period?		arrangements during the dis-	Seldom	66	
and participate actively in the discussion periods? Seldom 72 34.8 TUTAL 207 100.0 36. Did a recorder take notes duration by the discussion period? Usually 89 45.2 ing the discussion period? Seldom 108 54.8		to participate in the dis-	TOTAL	203	100.0
and participate actively in the discussion periods? Seldom 72 34.8 TUTAL 207 100.0 36. Did a recorder take notes duration by the discussion period? Usually 89 45.2 ing the discussion period? Seldom 108 54.8	26	Did most staff members sneet	טוֹ לבות!!	135	65.2
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ing the discussion period? Seldom 108 54.8	24	Add a recorder take notes dure	lleu al lu	۸۸	AE 2
	JV.				· -
		Ti-0 cite anagonaton harrant	TOTAL;	197	100.0



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	CATEGORY	NUMBER	PER CENT
Were the notes taken by the recorder	Usually	37	10.5
referred to during the discussion	Seldom	153	80.5
periods?	TOTAL	190	100.0
In general, do you feel that this	Satisfied	174	83.3
			16.7
been beneficial to you?	TOTAL	209	100.0
	Agree	166	79.8
			13.9
			6.3
stitutes an effective learning experience?	TOTAL	208	100.0
Do you feel that educational tele-	Agree	167	79.9
	Undecided	31	14.8
useful way of conducting programs	Disagree	11	5.3
for public health workers?	TOTAL	209	100.0
	Much	136	65.7
	Little		34.3
cation Programs?	TOTAL	207	100.0
	Agree	120	59.1
	•		20.2
understanding of my job.			20.7
	TOTAL	203	100,0
	Agree	172	83.5
	*		9.2
	Disagree		7.3
staff members,	TOTAL	206	100.0
	Agree	117	58.2
	Undecided		24.9
ter services to clients.	Disagree		16,9
	TOTAL	201	100.0
	In general, do you feel that this Continuing Education Program has been beneficial to you? Do you feel that the combination of the study manuals, television pro- grams, and discussion sessions con- stitutes an effective learning ex- perience? Do you feel that educational tele- vision should be recommended as a useful way of conducting programs for public health workers? Do you look forward to participating in the next series of Continuing Edu- cation Programs? As a result of the Continuing Edu- cation Program, I have a better understanding of my job. As a result of the Continuing Edu- cation Program, I have a better un- derstanding of the work of other staff members. As a result of the Continuing Edu- cation Program, I have a better un- derstanding of the work of other staff members.	Were the notes taken by the recorder referred to during the discussion periods? In general, do you feel that this Continuing Education Program has been beneficial to you? Do you feel that the combination of the study manuals, television programs, and discussion sessions constitutes an effective learning experience? Do you feel that educational television should be recommended as a useful way of conducting programs for public health workers? Do you look forward to participating in the next series of Continuing Education Programs, I have a better understanding of my job. As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I have a better understanding of the work of other staff members. As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I have a better understanding of the work of other staff members. As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I have a better undecided Disagree TOTAL As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I have a better undecided Disagree TOTAL As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I have a better undecided Disagree TOTAL As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I have a better undecided Disagree TOTAL As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I am providing bet— Undecided Disagree Undecided Disagree Undecided Disagree Undecided Disagree Undecided Disagree Undecided	Were the notes taken by the recorder referred to during the discussion periods? In general, do you feel that this Continuing Education Program has been beneficial to you? Do you feel that the combination of the study manuals, television pro-yerams, and discussion sessions constitutes an effective learning experience? Do you feel that educational television should be recommended as a useful way of conducting programs for public health workers? Do you look forward to participating in the next series of Continuing Education Programs, I have a better understanding of my job. As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I have a better understanding of the work of other services to clients. Busually 37 Seldom 153 TOTAL 190 Satisfied 35 TOTAL 209 Agree 166 Undecided 29 Undecided 29 Undecided 31 Undecided 31 Undecided 31 Undecided 31 Disagree 11 TOTAL 209 Much 136 Little 71 TOTAL 207 Agree 120 Undecided 41 Undecided 41 Undecided 41 Undecided 41 Undecided 19 Disagree 15 TOTAL 203 Agree 172 TOTAL 206

- 45. Best programs last year based on recall:

 - a) Our Public Image
 b) Tuberculosis Control
 c) Tuberculosis Control: An Overview
 - d) Pollution and Solid Waste Disposal
- 46. Poorest program last year based on recall:
 a) Total Man and His Total Environment

 - b) Environment for the Aging
 - c) Your Community



ITEM

- 47. Which programs helped you most, based on recall:
 a) Our Public Image
 b) Tuberculosis Control: An Overview

 - c) Communication



SUMMARY

Due to various inhibiting factors, no statistical technique was used to analyze the data; therefore, the summary that is presented here is purely a conjecture on the part of the writers. In order to present an orderly summary, the writers arbitrarily chose the following means of summarizing:

- 1. Items that were distributed on a basis of sixty percent or more or thirty-nine percent or less were summarized as indicating a trend.
- 2. Items that were distributed between forty and fifty-nine percent were summarized as indicating no specific trend.

Based on the data presented in this study and the criteria established by the writer, Alabama public health workers usually:

- 1. Heard the television clearly (60.5 percent).
- 2. Saw the television programs clearly (93.2 percent).
- 3. Received the study manuals in time for advanced reading (87.1 percent).
- 4. Read the study manuals prior to the television programs (77 percent).
- 5. Felt that the study manuals correlated well with the television programs (67.1 percent).
- 6. Felt that the study manuals provided new and useful information (66.5 per-cent).
- 7. Found the study manuals easy to read and understand (90.9 percent).
- 8. Found the color, printing, paper, and layout of the study manuals attractive (83.6 percent).
- 9. Felt that the persons making the introductions to the television programs were well prepared (64.1 percent).
- 10. Felt that the television programs provided new and useful information (69.2 percent).
- 11. Found the television programs easy to understand (83.6 percent).
- 12. Felt that the thirty minute television programs were about the right length (91.9 percent).
- 13. Felt that the television speakers presented their information and materials adequately (70.4 percent).



- 14. Felt that the visual aids used in the television programs were adequate (64.7 percent).
- 15. Felt that the topics selected were appropriate (76.3 percent).
- 16. Felt that the television speakers were well prepared (85.4 percent).
- 17. Had discussion sessions following each television program (91.3 percent).
- 18. Felt that the discussions were informative and educational (62.3 percent).
- 19. Held each discussion session for about thirty minutes (78.3 percent).
- 20. Indicated that the discussion periods were led by different individuals (71.5 percent).
- 21. Indicated that the discussion periods were well attended (87.4 percent).
- 22. Felt that the seating arrangements during the discussion sessions helped people to participate in the discussion (67.5 percent).
- 23. Felt that the staff members spoke and participated actively in the discussion periods (65.2 percent).
- 24. Felt that the Continuing Education Program had been beneficial to them (83.3 percent).
- 25. Felt that the combination of study manuals, television programs, and discussion sessions constituted an effective learning experience (only 6.3 percent disagreed).
- 26. Felt that educational television should be recommended as a useful way of conducting programs for public health workers (only 5.3 percent disagreed).
- 27. Looked forward to participating in the next series of programs (65.7 percent).
- 28. Felt that they now possessed a better understanding of their job as a result of participating in the programs (only 20.7 percent disagreed).
- 29. Felt that they now possessed a better understanding of the work of other staff members (only 7.3 percent disagreed).
- 30. Felt that they were now providing better services to their clients as a result of participating in the programs (only 16.9 percent disagreed).



Based on the data presented in this study and the criteria established by the writers, Alabama public health workers seldom:

- Felt that the study manuals were related to their work and responsibility (63.2 percent).
- 2. Felt that the notes taken by the recorder were referred to during the discussion periods (80.5 percent).

Based on the data presented in this study and the criteria established by the writers, Alabama public health workers indicated no specific trend as to whether:

- 1. They looked forward to receiving the study manuals.
- 2. An introduction was made by the discussion leader prior to the television programs.
- 3. The introductions that were made were helpful.
- 4. The introductions were made by the same person.
- 5. They preferred the television programs in the morning or afternoon.
- 6. They felt that the television programs were related to their work and responsibility.
- 7. They looked forward each week to viewing the programs.
- 8. They preferred the television programs to be shown once, twice, or four times per month.
- 9. They participated actively in the discussion periods.
- 10. They felt that the discussion sessions were related to their work and responsibility.
- 11. A recorder took notes during the discussion periods.

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on Adult Education

